

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine  
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ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS  
FUMIGATION OF TOMATOES BY METHYL BROMIDE AS A CONDITION OF  
CERTIFICATION OF TOMATOES MOVING BY REFRIGERATOR CAR FROM  
THE AREA LISTED IN REGULATION 5 OF QUARANTINE NO. 48

(Approved August 18, 1938; effective August 22, 1938)

Regulation 5, Sec. B, paragraph (2) of the Japanese beetle quarantine (No. 48) authorizes the issuance of certificates for the interstate movement of fruits and vegetables via refrigerator car from the area listed in that regulation to points outside the regulated areas between June 15 and October 15 when they have been handled or treated under the supervision of an inspector in manner and by method to free them from any infestation.

TREATMENT AUTHORIZED

The treatment described herein has been found to be effective against the Japanese beetle and such treatment is authorized as a basis for certification of tomatoes moving to points outside the regulated areas between June 15 and October 15 via refrigerator car when such treatment is carried out under the supervision of an inspector and in a manner satisfactory to him.

TREATMENT METHOD

Fumigation of tomatoes in dry refrigerator cars with methyl bromide at a dosage of 2 pounds per 1,000 cubic feet of space, including the space occupied by the tomatoes and bunkers of the cars, for a period of 2 hours, during which time the car shall remain tightly closed with the plugs in place in the ventilator hatches. The temperature within the car when fumigated shall be not less than 70° F. Provision shall be made for circulating the mixture of air and fumigant in the car for as long a time as is deemed necessary by the inspector. At the end of the fumigation period the hatches shall be opened, the plugs removed, screens placed in the hatch openings, and the car shipped under standard ventilation.

In authorizing the movement of tomatoes fumigated according to the requirements stated above, it is to be understood that no liability shall attach either to the United States Department of Agriculture or to any of its employees in the event of injury.

Caution: Methyl bromide is a gas at ordinary temperatures. It is colorless and practically odorless in concentration used for the fumigation of tomatoes. It is a poison, and the operator should use an approved gas mask when exposed to the gas at concentrations used in fumigation, and when opening the hatches for ventilating the cars. The car should not be entered until it is well aerated.

(SEAL)

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